

City of Baraboo
Parks & Recreation Commission
March 18, 2019 – Minutes

Present: Roy Franzen, Jim Francisco, Angela Witczak, Chantel Steinhorst & Mike Hardy

Also Present: Ben Bromley (media)

Franzen called the meeting to order. Legal Posting of the Agenda had been met. Francisco moved and Wiczak seconded approval of the February 20, 2019 minutes. Motion carried.

Witczak moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Francisco. Motion carried.

Action Items: Members discussed pros and cons of the Challenge/Teen Park location, which the sub-committee has proposed for Ochsner Park near the 20x40 shelter. Hardy explained that while it will crowd that park more, sub-committee members preferred a site close to the schools with good visibility from the road, restroom access and proximity to Riverwalk. Hardy suggested the Commission's best alternate options meeting that criteria to be Attridge Park, which is the same distance from Riverwalk, has more space available and offers even more visibility, however it is a little farther away from the schools and it doesn't have restrooms yet (although they are in the master plan). The other option would likely be the annex field at MRE Park, which is right on the Riverwalk and has restroom access, but is a little farther from the schools and not as visible from the road. Steinhorst liked that the Attridge site was also next to a basketball court. Witczak and Franzen felt having it close to the schools was important. Hardy will take comments back to the sub-committee noting that members prefer the Ochsner site and would like to see a layout at the proposed site.

Francisco moved to accept the bid of \$10,339 for 2019 EAB treatments from TruGreen Commercial, seconded by Witczak. Motion carried. Hardy updated the Commission on ash treatments which started in 2014, and removals, stating that we were on track to catch up with ash inventory by 2020. Franzen stated that he would like to see us continue to treat ash trees rather than remove. Francisco asked if we could consider this on an annual basis. Hardy replied that Commission has an opportunity to change direction on EAB every year at budget time, and members will have another opportunity to reconsider treatments at that time.

Hardy stated that he received a request to take down the fence around the skatepark. He added that he sees no need for the north, east and west fence sections and that would certainly provide a more inviting atmosphere, however with the hill and parking lot on the south side we would need to keep a barrier up to prevent falls down the hill and skateboards entering the parking lot and damaging vehicles. Hardy had spoken to the police chief who had no immediate concerns with the fence being removed. Witczak agreed that the fence gives an instructional look and thought it was a good idea. Franzen noted that when the park was built, the fence was added to keep bikes out, but kids still get their bikes in now anyway. Steinhorst commented that a short concrete wall on the south side would be neat if a graffiti artist painted it to give a better feel for the park, though it would be hard to control who paints the wall. Hardy added that we need to replace the wood ramps that were removed after they were vandalized and burned 3 years ago. There is currently \$3,000 available in park segregated that includes a 50% donation match from the skatepark organizers to build two concrete ramps. Witczak moved to remove the north, west and east fence sections and spend up to \$3,000 for new ramps at the skatepark. Seconded by Francisco. Motion carried.

Due to a minor typing error (the heading noted 2 pages in the Animal Acquisition Policy, but the policy was re-formatted to fit on 1 sheet) action on approval of the policy was tabled until next month.

Franzen stated he was not opposed to allowing for behind the scenes tours of the zoo, but would like more info. Witczak likes offering these to places like the library at no cost as an incentive, but to charge others to recoup staff costs, and possibly use as a revenue source. Steinhorst presented information on zoo tours of other zoos she found online. While she noted those were larger zoos, she felt we could use similar arrangements. Hardy will work on procedures and rates and bring back for consideration.

Francisco moved to use up to \$10,000 from Park Segregated Funds for installation of a water treatment system for the new beaver exhibit at the zoo. Seconded by Witczak. Motion carried.

Commissioners reviewed 3 designs for landscaping at Myron Park developed by Marcy Huffaker. Witczak moved to recommend option "E". Seconded by Steinhorst. Motion carried.

Hardy requested permission to purchase and install timed magnetic locks at the restrooms at Steinhorst Park to allow for more accessibility. Franzen noted that one of the biggest complaints he receives is why can't restrooms be open longer, but noted

the cost of providing additional staff to come in late and weekends to lock and un lock. Franciscan moved to purchase and install mag locks for Steinhorst Park for \$3,710 from Park Segregated Funds. Seconded by Franzen. Motion carried.

Hardy presented a request on behalf of the Youth Basketball Club to share in the purchase of 2 basketball backboards/hoops for the Civic Center gym at a cost of about \$750 each. Franzen stated that the gym is very small and he wasn't sure that there would be room to use 2 more baskets. Witczak moved to accept the Basketball Club's donation of 1 backboard/hoop with the City installing the donated hoop, but not to purchase a hoop ourselves. Second by Francisco. Motion carried.

Staff Report: February revenues were \$12,528.75

Hardy reported that staff attended the UWP-B/SC career fair and made several very good contacts for summer employees. The bridge bid opening would take place April 4. An arctic fox will be added to the zoo next month and placed in the bear exhibit. Next month a swim pool input session will be held following the Commission meeting for staff to gather comments from the community. We are adding a week to the end of the summer swim pool season. Summer recreation guides will be distributed the first week in April. We received a \$1,000 grant from Sauk County Arts for the Ochsner Park Centennial on August 10th. Volunteers and ideas for activities are needed. Finally, Council had approved the recommendations to update Chapter 19 of the Code with the addition that smoking/vaping ban be expanded to cover all parks and the Riverwalk.

Next Regular Meeting: April 8, 2019.

Witczak motioned to adjourn, Francisco seconded. Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Hardy, Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director